



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Peggy A. West, 12th District

Chairwoman, Health & Human Needs Committee

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SUPERVISOR WEST RECEIVES "PEOPLE FIRST WISCONSIN" AWARD

Milwaukee, WI – 12th District Milwaukee County Supervisor Peggy A. West has received an award from **People First Wisconsin** in recognition of her support for people with disabilities and their right to build lives in the community outside of institutions.

"I am honored and humbled to receive this award from People First Wisconsin and thank them for all the work they have been doing to help people with disabilities. I strongly believe in their mission," Supervisor West said. "During the 2011 Budget process, I fought hard to pass legislation to downsize a unit at Hilltop to place certain individuals in the community for a better quality of life. It's important for these individuals to socialize and, in some cases, seek employment and live with minimal assistance while contributing to society and leading a fulfilling life."

Supervisor West also introduced an amendment to construct a new Crisis Resource Center on Milwaukee's north side. The south side already has a Crisis Resource Center which provides respite care for individuals who would otherwise be admitted through the psychiatric emergency room at the County's Mental Health Complex. This community option saves Milwaukee County \$600 per patient per day and helps the County reduce ER admissions.

"Milwaukee County is behind in reducing its psychiatric emergency room admissions," Supervisor West said. "We haven't done enough to end the use of this archaic practice."

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